

C2 19. (Amended) A method of screening a drug for effectiveness as an ion channel blocker for an ion channel, wherein the ion channel has an external vestibule portion, said method comprising:

contacting a cell having an ion channel with a drug which is an ion channel blocker candidate;

evaluating the cell to determine if the ion channel blocker candidate binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel; and

identifying a drug which binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel as an ion channel blocker.

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